

In the Claims

Applicant presents below a complete claim set, with amendments indicated by underlining (additions) and strikethrough (deletions).

1.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method for down-regulating the expression of a gene of interest in *C. elegans*, comprising

feeding *C. elegans* with a micro-organism that expresses dsRNA corresponding to the gene of interest.

14. (Original) A method for down-regulating the expression of a gene of interest in *C. elegans*, comprising

feeding *C. elegans* with a micro-organism that comprises DNA that encodes and is capable of expressing dsRNA corresponding to the gene of interest in *C. elegans*.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, in which said DNA that encodes and is capable of expressing dsRNA corresponding to the gene of interest is in the form of an expression vector that comprises a DNA sequence corresponding to the gene of interest.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, in which said expression vector comprises a promoter or promoters oriented relative to said DNA sequence such that the promoter or promoters initiate transcription of said DNA sequence to double stranded RNA upon binding of a transcription factor to said promoter or promoters.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which said expression vector comprises two identical promoters flanking said DNA sequence.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which said expression vector comprises said DNA sequence in a sense and an antisense orientation relative to said promoter or promoters.
19. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which said transcription factor is a phage polymerase.
20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, in which said promoter(s) is/are selected from the group consisting of T7, T3 and SP6 promoter(s).
21. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which said micro-organism is adapted to express said transcription factor.
22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, in which said transcription factor is T7 polymerase.
23. (Original) A method according to claim 16, in which said *C. elegans* is adapted to express said transcription factor.
24. (Original) A method according to claim 23, in which said transcription factor is T7 polymerase.
25. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims ~~1,2~~, 13 or 14, in which the micro-organism is a bacterium.
26. (Original) A method according to claim 25, in which the bacterium is *E. coli*.
27. (Original) A method according to claim 26, in which the *E. coli* is a RNase III negative strain.
28. (Currently amended) A method according to any of claims ~~1,2~~, 13 or 14, in which the *C. elegans* is DNase deficient.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 28, in which the DNase deficient *C. elegans* is a nuc-1 mutant.

30.-53. (Canceled)